3/14/88 S 8875-1

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 25 NO. 2 FEB. 1988

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Nov '87	Dec '87
Labor Force	235,643	233,699
Employment	218,812	215,748
Unemployment	16,831	17,951
Rate (Raw)	7.1	7.7
Rate (S.A.)	7.7	7.7
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.95	$14.11
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	46.2	43.3
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.9	5.8
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.46	*$12.46
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.5	42.8
Consumer Price Index, All Urban 1967=100		
U.S. City Avg.	345.8	345.7
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.5	+4.4

S.A. Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

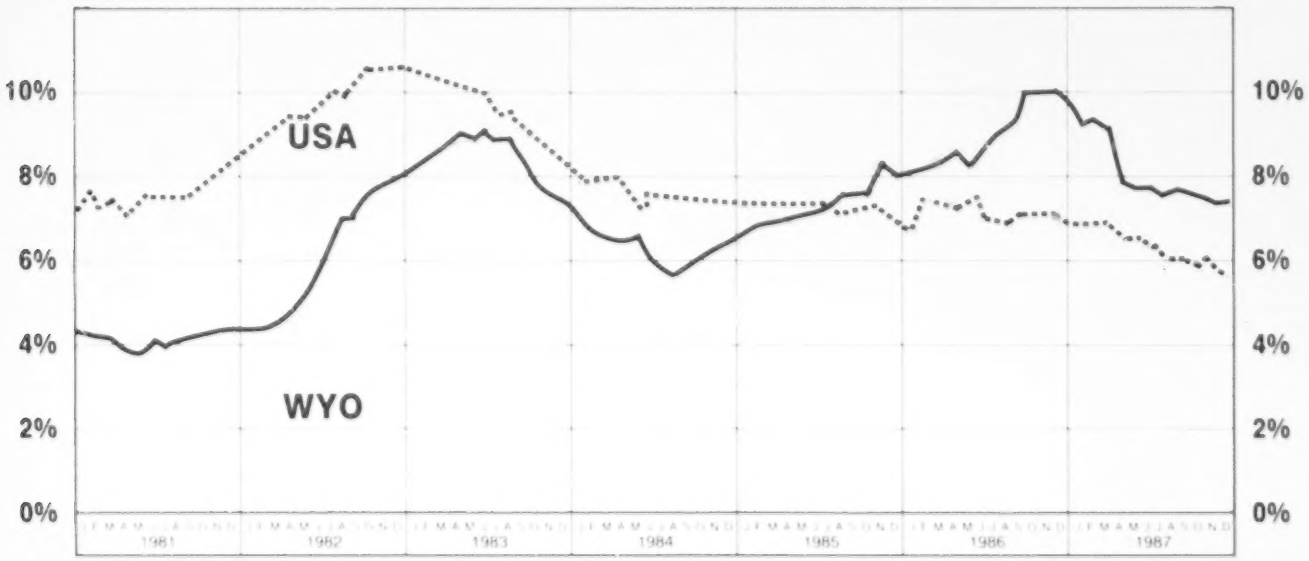
— Wyoming Poverty On The Rise
— ACCRA Cost of Living Comparisons, Third Quarter 1987
— 1987 Census of Governments

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.8 PERCENT

National unemployment ticked downward in December, to 5.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, compared to 5.9 percent in November, 1987 and 6.7 percent in December, 1986. The number of persons unemployed nationally totals almost seven million, compared to almost eight million in December, 1986. During December, there was little or no change in the unemployment rates for adult men (4.9 percent), adult women (5.2 percent), teenagers (16.1 percent), whites (4.9 percent), and blacks (12.2 percent). The jobless rate for Hispanics declined to 8.1 percent during December. Unemployment rates for nearly all workers showed considerable improvement over the year.

In December, the average duration of unemployment was 14.2 weeks, up somewhat from 14.0 weeks in November, but in line with the general improvement in unemployment, showed a decline in duration of about one week compared to year ago levels.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Comparing national employment on a year to year basis shows that the number of workers in December was 113.7 million, an annual increase of over three million, or an improvement of nearly three percent. As has been the case in recent years, the services industry lead the month-to-month gains, but there were also additional job gains in construction and manufacturing. Employment in manufacturing continued to grow for the sixth straight month, increasing by 40,000 jobs during December. Machinery and electrical equipment were responsible for about half of maufacfuring's total increase. Employment in the motor vehicles and equipment industry was little changed in December, but unlike the rest of the manufacturing industry, has been moving downward and is now nearly 60,000 workers below its 1986 level.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT MOVES TO 7.7 PERCENT

The December unemployment rate in Wyoming, seasonally adjusted, continued at the November level of 7.7 percent—down considerably from the 9.7 percent posted one year ago.

December's unadjusted unemployment rate for Wyoming stood at 7.7 percent, as well, up seasonally for the third month in a row, and as the seasonally adjusted rate, is down from the same 9.7 percent registered last year. Unemployment rates in January and February, if they follow historic trends, will likely be higher.

Wyoming's total number of unemployed in December rose to 17,951, up from 16,831 in November, but well down from the 23,294 recorded one year earlier.

WYOMING LABOR FORCE AGAIN DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

The civilian labor force in Wyoming continued to dwindle during December, down eight-tenths of a percent from November and was down 2.4 percent from December, 1986. The number of employed workers in December was down year-to-year by only 475, which is somewhat less than it has been running in recent months. Nationwide, the employed labor force gained nearly three percent. Only manufacturing and mining showed noteable annual employment gains across the state in December. All other major industries were at, or below last year's levels.

AREA TRENDS

As in November, all but five Wyoming counties reflected annual declines in their labor force during December, and so did the state, as well. Crook, Goshen, Johnson and Niobrara counties continued to show some modest growth. Teton County was up a whopping 10.3 percent in their labor force from one year ago.

OTHER STATES

Once again, in November, Wyoming's unemployment rate was the tenth highest in the nation. West Virginia had the highest unemployment rate with 10.8 percent, and New Hampshire had the lowest, with 2.2 percent.

WYOMING POVERTY ON THE RISE

The number of Wyoming residents living in poverty has increased as as result of the state's economic hard times. According to the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the state's poverty rate has gone from 6.4 percent in 1979 to 12.0 percent in 1985.

The 1980 Census placed Wyoming's population at 469,557, with a poverty rate of 6.4 percent, there were 30,052 residents living in poverty. For 1985, the Census Bureau estimates the state's population was 509,000, of that an estimated 12.0 percent or 61,080 were living in poverty. In just five years, the population of Wyoming residents living in poverty almost doubled.

With the widespread layoffs in mining and construction many residents were forced to live on unemployment checks and savings, and when those ran out they had to accept jobs that put them and their families below the Census Bureau's Poverty Income Thresholds. The result, increased pressures on the state's social service and charity programs.

Currently there may be a decrease in the number of poor in Wyoming, not because of a sudden expansion in the economy but because of outmigration. Many of Wyoming's unemployed and underemployed are moving to other states in search of better paying jobs. Recent unemployment estimates agree. While the number of unemployed has declined in recent months, so has the total labor force, suggesting a loss in population.

The 1987 Census Bureau Poverty Statistical Income Thresholds are shown below.

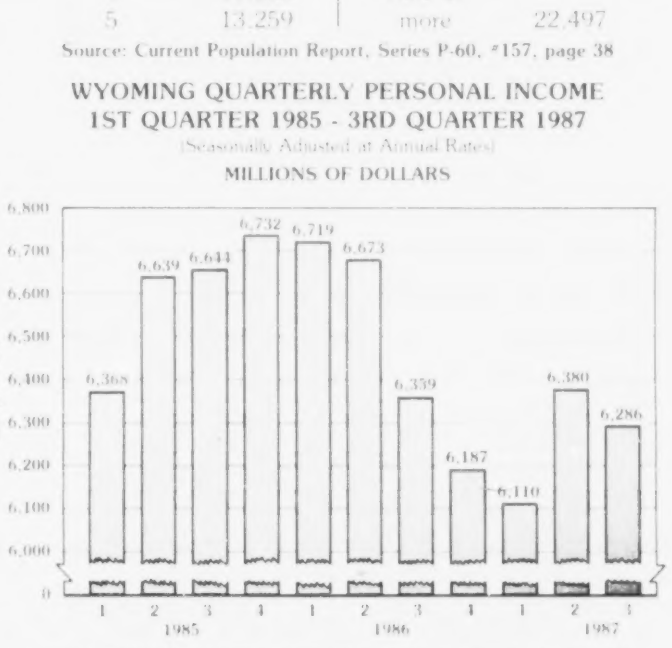
Family Size	Income	Family Size	Income
1	$ 5,572	6	$14,986
2	7,138	7	17,049
3	8,737	8	18,791
4	11,203	Nine or	
5	13,259	more	22,497

Source: Current Population Report, Series P-60, #157, page 38

WYOMING QUARTERLY PERSONAL INCOME 1ST QUARTER 1985 - 3RD QUARTER 1987

(Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, January, 1988.

Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, February, 1988.

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS – THIRD QUARTER 1987

	ALL ITEMS	GROC-ERIES	HOUSING	UTIL-ITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
omponent Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	30%
S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
yoming Cities							
Casper	92.0	95.2	71.1	99.8	93.3	99.0	100.5
eighboring Cities							
Billings, MT	99.6	105.3	94.1	96.6	96.7	99.5	102.9
Denver, CO	102.3	90.5	114.0	91.0	110.9	111.3	98.7
Omaha, NE	94.7	92.9	92.5	83.2	98.8	80.9	103.0
Rapid City, SD	100.8	99.8	106.9	101.7	95.7	113.5	95.7
Salt Lake City, UT	98.9	97.7	88.4	98.7	103.7	106.8	103.6
ighest U.S. City	149.2	152.9	258.0	187.4	130.8	189.3	129.7
	Boston MA	St. Thomas VI	Boston MA	New York NY	Newport RI	Anchorage AK	Juneau AK
owest U.S. City	86.0	85.6	70.4	39.2	79.7	70.0	86.4
	Poplar Bluff MO	Kansas City MO, KS	Morgan City LA	San Francisco CA	Fort Worth TX	Mc Minnville TN	New London WI

ource: ACCRA*, American Chamber of Commerce Research Association
ource: Bureau of Labor Statistics

1987 CENSUS OF GOVERNMENTS

he recent 1987 Census of Governments reported that Wyo ing had 96 municipal governments, 56 school districts and 249 pecial district governments. That is an increase of five municipal overnments and 24 special district governments since the last me a Census of Governments was completed in 1982. In 1987 Vyoming had a total of 425 governmental units according to e Census.

he average number of local government units in 1987, per state as 1,663, but Illinois had 6,626 while Hawaii had only 18. he following 10 states had more than 3,000 governments each: inois, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Kansas, Minnesota, hio, New York , Nebraska and Missouri. Together these 10 ates accounted for nearly one-half (49 percent) of all local overnment units in the nation.

Vyoming had an increase of 10 percent in special district govern ents from 1982 to 1987. This continues the trend of the past w decades to create new government units to meet the addi onal needs for governmental services and resources. A special district government is an independent, limited purpose govern ment unit (other than school districts), which exists as a separate entity and has substantial fiscal and administrative independence from general purpose governments. The United States has shown an increase in special district governments. Below are the increases in special district governments in the United States from 1952 to 1987.

UNITED STATES SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS 1952 to 1987

Year	Number of Special District Governments
1952	12,340
1962	18,323
1972	23,885
1982	28,078
1987	29,487

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

WYOMING NUMBER OF SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS BY FUNCTION

TOTAL	HOSPITALS	HEALTH	HIGHWAYS	FIRE PROTECTION	DRAINAGE & FLOOD CONTROL	IRRIGATION	SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION	OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES
249	10	1	1	44	16	43	33	22
PARKS & RECREATION	SEWERAGE	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	WATER SUPPLY	OTHER UTILITY	CEMETARIES	ALL OTHER SINGLE FUNCTION DISTRICTS	MULTIFUNCTION DISTRICTS	
2	5	7	5	1	36	7	16	

ource: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)
ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
ecember 1987	345.7	328.1	375.3	288.5	221.1	323.3	472.9
nnual % Change	4.4	3.5	3.6	4.0	4.8	6.1	5.8

ource: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	DEC 1987[1]	NOV 1987[1]	DEC 1986[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	233,699	235,643	239,517	- 0.8	- 2.4
Unemployment	17,951	16,831	23,294	6.7	- 22.9
Employed Labor Force	215,748	218,812	216,223	- 1.4	- 0.2
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	166,900	168,200	170,611	- 0.8	- 2.2
b. Agriculture[3]	7,629	8,572	7,771	- 11.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	7.7% 7.7%*	7.1% 7.7%*	9.7% 9.7%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.4% 5.8%*	5.6% 5.9%*	6.3% 6.7%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	2.7%	2.0%	4.3%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 610.96	$ 644.49	$ 648.40	- 5.2	- 5.8
Average Weekly Hours	43.3	46.2	43.9	- 6.3	- 1.4
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.11	$ 13.95	$ 14.77	1.1	- 4.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	24,851	18,431	45,821	34.8	- 45.8
a. Initial	4,044	3,055	5,089	32.4	- 20.5
Weeks Compensated	20,708	11,261	42,700	83.9	- 51.5
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 3,207,035	$ 1,732,738	$ 7,001,666	85.1	- 54.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 154.50	$ 153.60	$ 163.66	0.6	- 5.6
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	3,176	2,683	3,184	18.4	- 0.3
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,335	2,332	1,964	0.1	18.9
Non-Ag. Placements	2,728	2,198	1,920	24.1	42.1
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 533.29	$ 529.55	$ 535.51	0.7	- 0.4
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.5	42.4	0.7	0.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.46	$ 12.46	$ 12.63	0.0	- 1.3
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	345.7	345.8	331.1	0.0	4.4
Producer Prices, All Commodities	311.7	311.9	298.5	- 0.1	4.4
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	328.1	326.7	317.0	0.4	3.5

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986	%CHANGE NOV-DEC	%CHANGE DEC-DEC	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986	DEC 1987	NOV 1987	DEC 1986
Statewide	233,699	235,643	239,517	- 0.8	- 2.4	17,951	16,831	23,294	7.7	7.1	9.7
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									7.7	7.7	9.7
Albany	14,754	15,061	14,829	- 2.0	- 0.5	751	731	849	5.1	4.9	5.7
Big Horn	4,359	4,485	4,635	- 2.8	- 6.0	412	331	606	9.5	7.4	13.1
Campbell	14,166	14,506	16,012	- 2.3	- 11.5	1,040	1,044	1,484	7.3	7.2	9.3
Carbon	8,124	8,301	8,168	- 2.1	- 0.5	739	725	893	9.1	8.7	10.9
Converse	5,681	5,824	6,113	- 2.5	- 7.1	468	447	691	8.2	7.7	11.3
Crook	2,810	2,876	2,784	- 2.3	0.9	194	166	269	6.9	5.8	9.6
Fremont	16,049	16,246	16,259	- 1.2	- 1.3	1,453	1,257	1,939	9.1	7.7	11.9
Goshen	6,421	6,523	6,135	- 1.6	4.7	387	349	378	6.0	5.4	6.2
Hot Springs	2,837	2,927	2,884	- 3.1	- 1.6	216	196	212	7.6	6.7	7.3
Johnson	3,548	3,578	3,467	- 0.8	2.3	232	221	371	6.5	6.2	10.7
Laramie	35,469	35,375	35,560	0.3	- 0.3	2,342	2,347	2,540	6.6	6.6	7.1
Lincoln	7,484	7,669	7,913	- 2.4	- 5.4	709	594	885	9.5	7.7	11.2
Natrona	31,628	31,584	32,988	0.1	- 4.1	2,554	2,368	3,673	8.1	7.5	11.1
Niobrara	1,605	1,620	1,541	- 0.9	4.2	155	153	133	9.7	9.4	8.6
Park	11,947	12,123	12,083	- 1.5	- 1.1	831	695	1,162	7.0	5.7	9.6
Platte	3,951	4,068	4,055	- 2.9	- 2.6	367	342	490	9.3	8.4	12.1
Sheridan	11,725	11,801	12,033	- 0.6	- 2.6	840	780	1,065	7.2	6.6	8.9
Sublette	3,144	3,172	3,469	- 0.9	- 9.4	309	260	390	9.8	8.2	11.2
Sweetwater	21,553	21,741	21,956	- 0.9	- 1.8	1,916	1,823	2,614	8.9	8.4	11.9
Teton	8,329	7,810	7,554	6.6	10.3	519	564	441	6.2	7.2	5.8
Uinta	10,316	10,604	10,930	- 2.7	- 5.6	974	937	1,466	9.4	8.8	13.4
Washakie	4,306	4,271	4,584	0.8	- 6.1	345	312	435	8.0	7.3	9.5
Weston	3,493	3,478	3,565	0.4	- 2.0	198	189	312	5.7	5.4	8.7
United States									5.4	5.6	6.3
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.8	5.9	6.7

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	DEC 1987[2]	NOV 1987[3]	DEC 1986	NOV 1987	DEC 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to DEC 1987	to DEC 1987
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	188.7	190.2	191.1	- 0.8	- 1.3
Manufacturing	8.4	8.6	8.1	- 2.3	3.7
Durable Goods	3.8	4.0	3.6	- 5.0	5.6
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.6	4.5	0.0	2.2
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	180.3	181.6	183.0	- 0.7	- 1.5
Mining	19.0	19.2	18.2	- 1.0	4.4
Contract Construction	10.9	12.1	12.4	- 9.9	- 12.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.9	14.0	14.1	- 0.7	- 1.4
Railroad Transportation	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0
Transportation except Railroads	5.6	5.8	5.8	- 3.4	- 3.4
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.2	6.1	6.3	1.6	- 1.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.9	44.4	44.8	1.1	0.2
Wholesale Trade	8.0	7.9	8.2	1.3	- 2.4
Retail Trade	36.9	36.5	36.6	1.1	0.8
Food Stores	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.4	5.5	5.7	- 1.8	- 5.3
Eating & Drinking Places	13.8	13.9	13.5	- 0.7	2.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.8	7.7	8.0	1.3	- 2.5
Services	31.3	31.3	31.9	0.0	- 1.9
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.4	7.4	7.3	0.0	1.4
Government	52.5	52.9	53.6	- 0.8	- 2.1
Federal Government	7.1	7.1	7.1	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	45.4	45.8	46.5	- 0.9	- 2.4
State Government	13.4	13.4	14.0	0.0	- 4.3
Local Government	32.0	32.4	32.5	- 1.2	- 1.5

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	DEC 1987[2]	NOV 1987[3]	DEC 1986	NOV 1987	DEC 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to DEC 1987	to DEC 1987
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.2	28.1	28.3	0.4	- 0.4
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	26.8	26.7	27.0	0.4	- 0.7
Mining	2.6	2.7	2.5	- 3.7	4.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.4	2.5	2.3	- 4.0	4.3
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.4	1.5	1.6	- 6.7	- 12.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	- 5.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.5	8.3	8.5	2.4	0.0
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.7	0.0	- 3.7
Retail Trade	5.9	5.7	5.8	3.5	1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Services	5.7	5.7	5.6	0.0	1.8
Government	5.4	5.3	5.5	1.9	- 1.8
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	4.7	4.6	4.8	2.2	- 2.1
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.3	30.5	31.0	- 0.6	- 2.2
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.2	29.4	29.9	- 0.7	- 2.3
Contract Construction	1.7	1.9	1.8	- 10.5	- 5.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.6	2.6	3.0	0.0	- 13.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.6	7.6	7.6	0.0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.8	6.8	6.8	0.0	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.3	5.3	0.0	0.0
Government	10.1	10.1	10.3	0.0	- 1.9
Federal Government	2.7	2.8	2.7	- 3.6	0.0
State & Local Government	7.4	7.8	7.6	- 5.1	- 2.6

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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WYOMING
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